

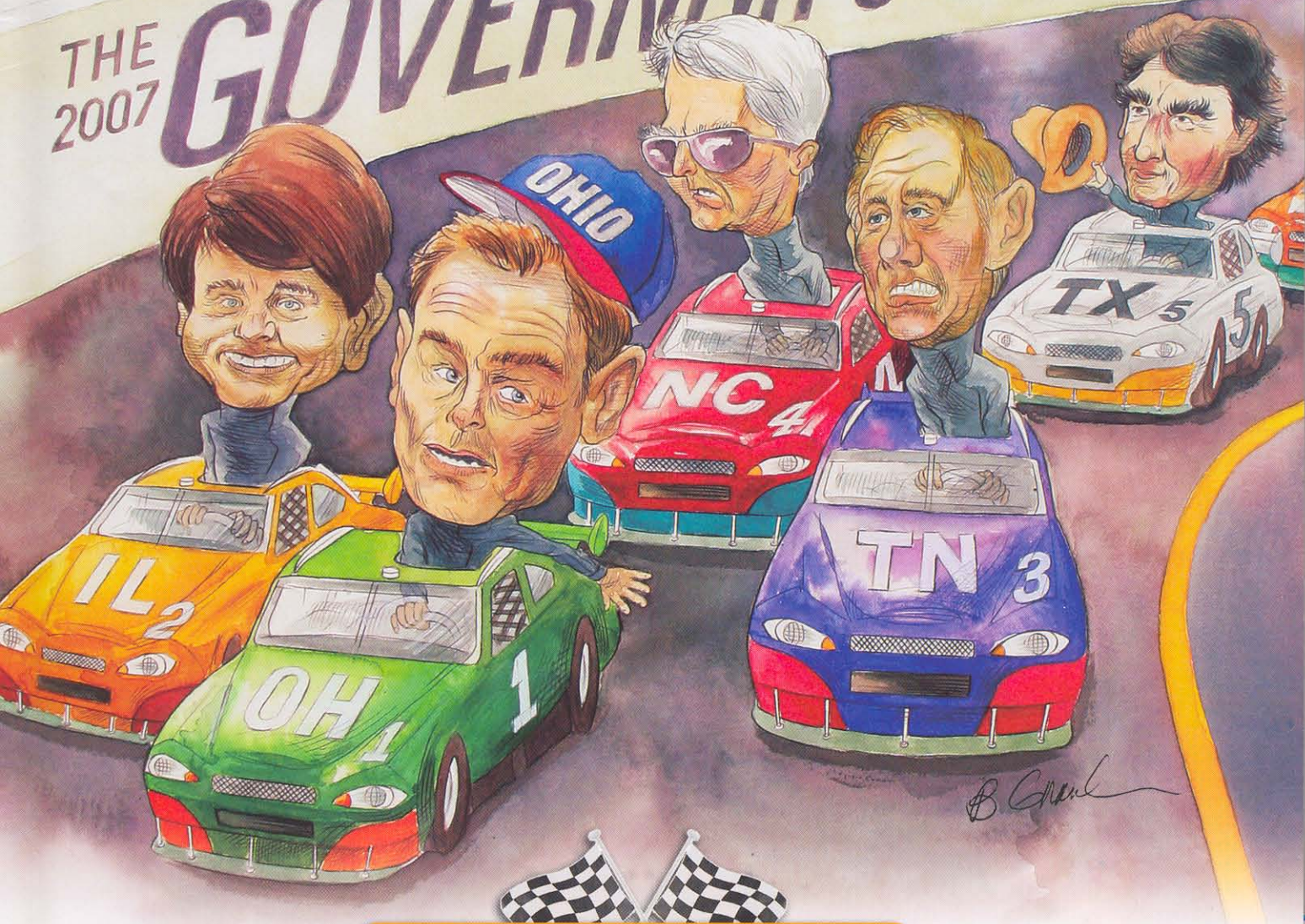
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THE 2007 GOVERNOR'S CUP



OHIO CLINCHES FACILITIES RACE

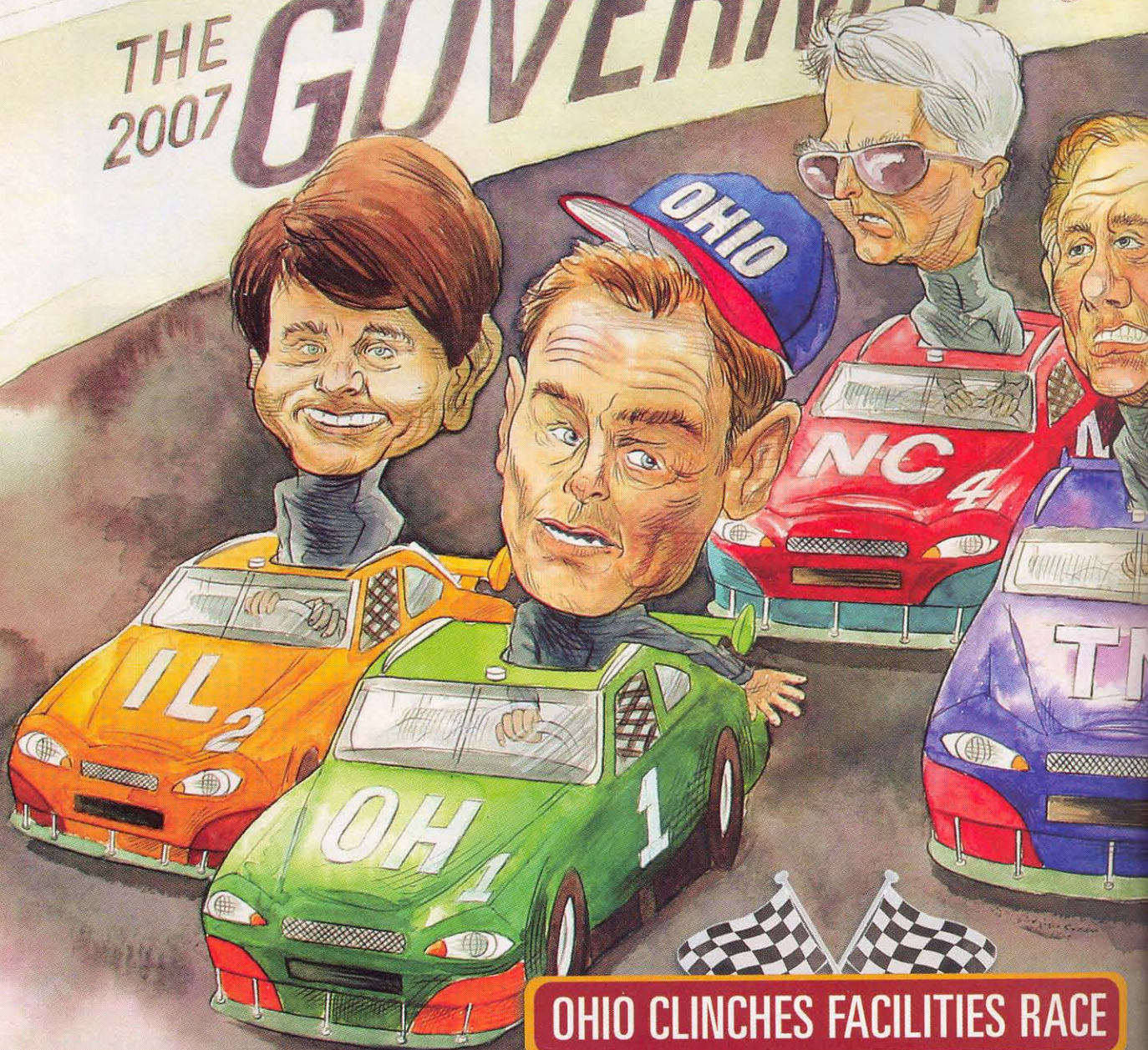
TOP METROS • TOP MICROPOLITANS • TOP INDUSTRIES

I.T. & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT • PHARMACEUTICALS • BUILDING MATERIALS



Victory

THE 2007 GOVERNOR'S



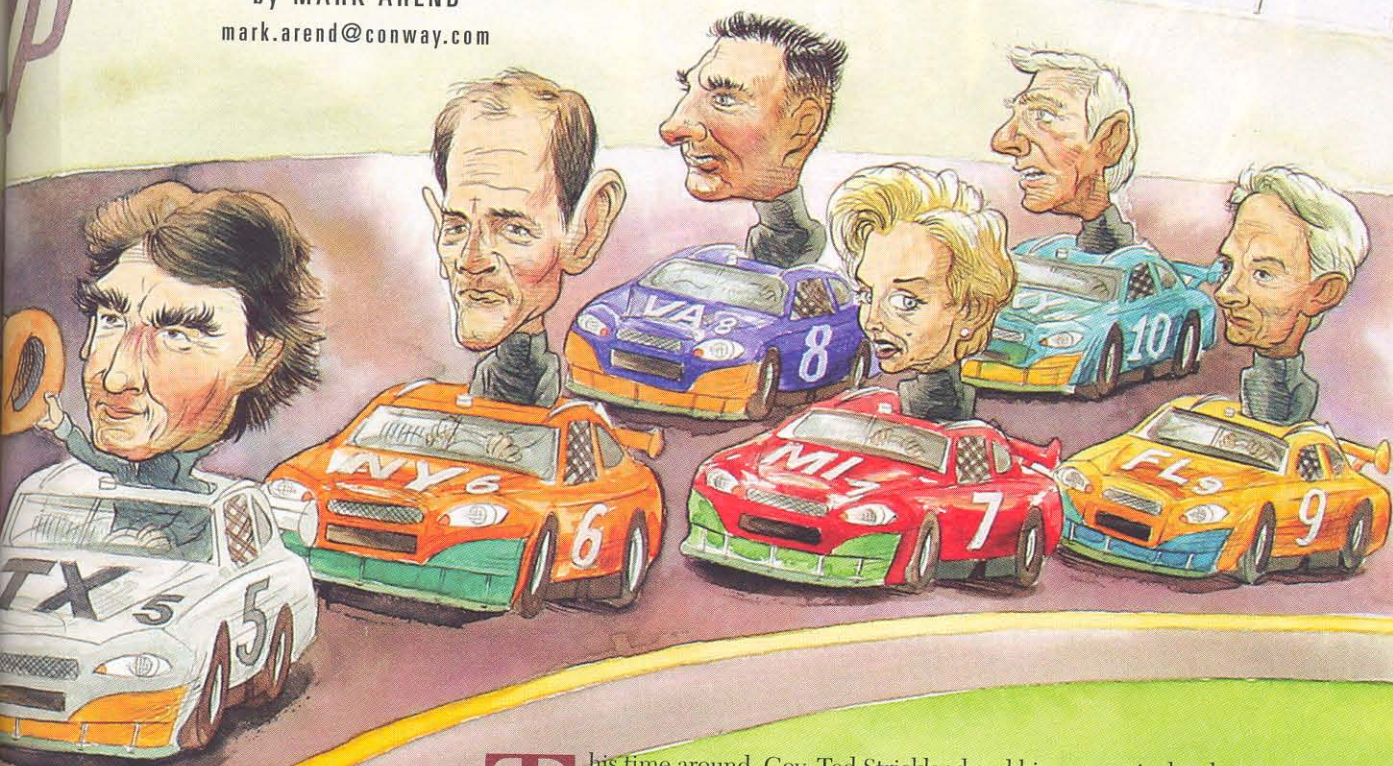
OHIO CLINCHES FACILITIES RACE

B. G. G.

Lap!

Ohio's second consecutive Governor's Cup is proof positive that manufacturing-intensive states can diversify their economies and retool their labor supplies enough to win *Site Selection's* annual corporate-facilities race.

by MARK AREND
mark.arend@conway.com



This time around, Gov. Ted Strickland and his economic development team are only too eager to celebrate Ohio's winning *Site Selection's* coveted Governor's Cup. Ohio won the 2006 Cup, as well, but the Strickland Administration in March 2007 was so new to the governor's office that credit for that win went to the previous administration's economic development team. The Governor's Cup goes to the state with the most new or expanded capital projects the previous year as tracked by *Site Selection* publisher Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant database.

As for his contribution to this year's win, says Gov. Strickland, "I am as engaged as my development leadership wants me to be, which may involve travel, phone calls or personal meetings — anything they feel will be helpful." And it is that development team, headed by Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, he notes, that deserves the credit for executing Strickland's vision of making Ohio a pro-business, low-cost location in which to grow industry.

While Fisher and the many local and

Top 10 States by Number of Projects

Rank	State	Count
1	Ohio	399
2	Illinois	362
3	Tennessee	293
4	North Carolina	291
5	Texas	281
6	New York	244
7	Michigan	210
8	Virginia	207
9	Florida	203
10	Kentucky	197

Source: Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant Database

can be expanded to a phase two that would add 770,000 sq. ft. (71,533 sq. m.), according to a company release. The site is on 72 acres (29 hectares) in the Laraway Crossings Business Park south of Chicago.

"We are thrilled about the opportunity to locate our Midwestern Distribution Center in Joliet," said Keith Keller, IKEA North America's Distribution Services president. "This location's proximity to a rail line offers the long-term capacity, infrastructure and geography

that we were seeking to complement our distribution presence in North America, and to ensure our stores can continue to offer well-designed and functional home furnishings at affordable prices."

Worldwide, the firm plans to open between 10 and 20 stores every year to keep up with demand.

Joseph Roth, corporate spokesman at IKEA North America headquarters in Conshohocken, Pa., says the site selection process was driven by the need to find a central location in the Midwest

with proximity to all five company stores in the region.

"We needed to find a site of 50 to 100 acres [20 to 40 hectares] zoned for distribution and that allowed a height requirement of 100 feet [30.5 m.]," says Roth. "We also needed a rail line nearby. When we considered all the important factors, it became clear that the Greater Chicago area was a good choice. Plus, we liked the industrial vision of the city of Joliet."

The vision of Joliet meshes well with the vision of World Business Chicago, the economic development organization that represents the entire metro area.

"Our primary asset is our location," says Rita Athas, the new executive director of WBC. "Our location in the center of the country gives us a huge advantage. We are the only dual hub in North America with our airports. We have an intermodal container port. As a result, over 50 percent of all freight that's transported across the U.S. passes through Chicago."

Lighting Up the Night Sky

There's perhaps no better evidence of Chicago's dominance than a new study co-written by Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class* and director of the Prosperity Institute in the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

Titled "The Rise of the Mega-Region," the study uses a global dataset of nighttime light emissions, combined with population data and published estimates of national GDP, to produce "rough but useful estimates of the economic activity of each region" on the planet. The resulting research identifies 40 mega-regions with economic output of more than \$100 billion each across the globe.

The Chicago-to-Pittsburgh mega-region, according to this methodology, ranks No. 3 in the world in terms of its total economic impact, behind only No. 1 Greater Tokyo and No. 2 Boston-to-Washington.

Tracey Hyatt Bosman, associate director of strategic consulting for Grubb & Ellis in Chicago, says that what's happening in Joliet is spreading throughout the metro area. "We are seeing a lot of distribution and warehousing projects these days," she says. "With the rail lines serving this market and the consumer

2007 Top Metros by Number of Projects

Metros with population over 1 million

Rank	Metro	State(s)	Count
1	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet	Ill./Ind./Wis.	236
2	Cincinnati-Middletown	Ohio/Ky./Ind.	111
3	St. Louis	Mo./Ill.	95
4	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land	Texas	75
5	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington	Minn./Wis.	74
T6	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro	Tenn.	73
T6	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	Texas	73
8	New York-Newark-Edison	N.Y./N.J./Pa.	72
9	Detroit-Warren-Livonia	Mich.	67
10	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News	Va.	62

Metros with population 200,000 to 1 million

Rank	Metro	State(s)	Count
1	Greensboro-High Point	N.C.	30
T2	Omaha-Council Bluffs	Neb./Iowa	29
T2	Akron	Ohio	29
T4	Wichita	Kan.	27
T4	Dayton	Ohio	27
T6	Syracuse	N.Y.	25
T6	Raleigh-Cary	N.C.	25
8	Grand Rapids-Wyoming	Mich.	24
9	Tulsa	Okla.	23
T10	Lexington-Fayette	Ky.	22
T10	Knoxville	Tenn.	22

Metros with population less than 200,000

Rank	Metro	State(s)	Count
1	Sioux City	Iowa/Neb./S.D.	23
2	Morristown	Tenn.	15
3	Valdosta	Ga.	13
T4	Jackson	Mich.	10
T4	Johnson City	Tenn.	10
T6	Waterloo-Cedar Falls	Iowa	9
T6	Bowling Green	Ky.	9
T6	Rocky Mount	N.C.	9
T9	Auburn-Opelika	Ala.	8
T9	Decatur	Ala.	8
T9	Kingston	N.Y.	8

Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database